

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-07

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DRAFTED BY NEA/RA:SMHOLLY/SEPALMER,JR.:EO  
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-----101671 271904Z /42

R 271841Z JUN 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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STADIS////////////////////  
LIMDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: APER, ELAB, EG

SUBJECT:TRANSFER OF REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE POSITION TO  
CAIRO?

1. YOU WILL RECALL OUR PAST INTEREST IN POSSIBLY MOVING  
THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE POSITION (RLA) FROM WASHINGTON  
BACK TO THE FIELD. WE CANVASSED THE POSTS IN COUNTRIES  
PREVIOUSLY COVERED BY THE REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE FROM  
BEIRUT (BAHRAIN, EGYPT, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, LEBANON, OMAN,  
QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SYRIA, UAE AND YAR) ON DESIRABILITY  
OF SUCH A MOVE AS WELL AS THEIR WILLINGNESS TO HOST SUCH  
A PERSON. OUR EXPERIENCE OF EIGHTEEN MONTHS HAD SHOWN  
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THAT MANY OF SERVICES RENDERED TO POSTS BY PREVIOUS IN-  
CUMBENT COULD NOT BE PROVIDED AS ADEQUATELY BY A WASHINGTON-  
BASED OFFICER. GENERAL RESPONSE WAS THAT A MIDDLE-EAST  
REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE WAS LIKELY TO BE MORE USEFUL TO  
THEM THAN A WASHINGTON-BASED PERSON. ALL OF THE POSTS  
MAINTAINED, HOWEVER, THEY COULD NOT HOST THE POSITION  
PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF HOUSING AND OFFICE SPACE SHORTAGES.

2. GIVEN THE SQUEEZE ON POSITIONS, WE ARE CONSIDERING ABOLISHING THE RLA POSITION, COMBINING ITS FUNCTIONS WITH THOSE OF THE BUREAU'S LABOR ADVISOR AND RELIEVING THE LATTER OF SOME NON-LABOR RESPONSIBILITIES SO HE COULD

MORE OFTEN VISIT THE FIELD. HOWEVER, DOL DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF LABOR FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, HOWARD SAMUEL, RECENTLY DISCUSSED THE RLA POSITION WITH ME. DOL WANTS TO USE SLOT OVERSEAS AGAIN. WE HAVE NOW LEARNED THAT DOL SECRETARY MARSHALL AND SAMUEL (PERHAPS ACCOMPANIED BY GEORGE MEANY) PLAN TO CALL ON THE SECRETARY IN EARLY JULY TO RAISE VARIOUS LABOR ATTACHE CORPS ISSUES. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THEY WILL PRESS FOR REACTIVATION OF THE RLA POSITION IN THE FIELD. IF DEPARTMENT CANNOT RESIST THE CONSIDERABLE PRESSURES WHICH WE ANTICIPATE ON THIS QUESTION, ALL HANDS HERE AGREE THAT THE LOGICAL PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT WOULD BE CAIRO. BEARING IN MIND THE POLITICAL DYNAMICS OF THIS ISSUE HERE AS WELL AS THE POINTS YOU MADE IN CAIRO 3539 LAST FEBRUARY AND THE FACT THAT LABOR REPORTING OFFICER BROD IS DOING EXCELLENT WORK, I WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR CURRENT APPRAISAL. IDENTIFICATION AND PREPARATION OF A CANDIDATE COULD TAKE QUITE SOME TIME, ESPECIALLY IF ARABIC LANGUAGE TRAINING IS REQUIRED. WE WOULD SEEK TO ENSURE ADEQUATE TRAVEL FUNDS SO THE ATTACHE COULD CONCENTRATE HIS EFFORTS ON (IN ADDITION TO EGYPT) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE SEVERAL COUNTRIES WHERE OUR EMBASSIES WOULD WELCOME MORE FOCUS ON LABOR/MANPOWER MATTERS. PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR VIEWS IN THE NEXT WEEK OR SO, SLUGGED NEA ONLY. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** Z  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PERSONNEL MOVEMENTS, ATTACHES  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** ONLY  
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**Subject:** TRANSFER OF REGIONAL LABOR ATTACHE POSITION TO CAIRO?  
**TAGS:** APER, ELAB, EG  
**To:** CAIRO  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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